

IN THE CLAIMS

The status of the claims as presently amended is as follows:

1. (*Currently Amended*) A sequin sewing apparatus comprising:

a supplying section that supplies a plurality of continuous sequin strips, each comprising a multiplicity of continuously-connected sequins, in an overlapped state;

a feeding mechanism that feeds the plurality of continuous sequin strips supplied in the overlapped state by said supplying section a predetermined pitch at a time in interlocked relation to predetermined sewing operation;

a sewing mechanism that sews leading sequins of the plurality of continuous sequin strips, ~~having been fed by said feeding mechanism, together~~ in the overlapped state onto a sewn-to member; and

a cutting mechanism that cuts off the leading ~~plurality of~~ sequins sewn by said sewing mechanism from the respective continuous sequin strips,

wherein the sequins of each of the continuous sequin strips have holes, and
wherein positions of the holes of the sequins are aligned in the overlapped state to permit the feeding mechanism to engage the holes of the aligned sequins to sequentially feed the plurality of continuous sequin strips at the predetermined pitch at a time in interlocked relation to predetermined sewing operation.

2. (*Original*) A sequin sewing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said supplying section comprises a reel mounting section on which a plurality of reels housing respective continuous sequin strips are to be mounted, and a lead-in section that overlaps the respective continuous sequin strips let out from the reels mounted on said reel mounting section.

3. (*Original*) A sequin sewing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said lead-in section leads the plurality of continuous sequin strips, let out from the respective reels, in the overlapped state to a guide section, and the guide section guides the continuous sequin strips to said feeding mechanism while inhibiting the continuous sequin strips from being separated from each other.

4. (*Original*) A sequin sewing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said supplying section comprises a reel mounting section on which a reel that houses a plurality of continuous sequin strips in an overlapped state is to be mounted.

5. (*Currently Amended*) A sequin sewing apparatus ~~according to claim 1, comprising:~~
a supplying section that supplies a plurality of continuous sequin strips, each comprising
a multiplicity of continuously-connected sequins, in an overlapped state;
a feeding mechanism that feeds the plurality of continuous sequin strips supplied in the
overlapped state by said supplying section a predetermined pitch at a time in interlocked
relation to predetermined sewing operation;
a sewing mechanism that sews leading sequins of the plurality of continuous sequin
strips fed by said feeding mechanism together in the overlapped state onto a sewn-to member;
and
a cutting mechanism that cuts off the leading sequins sewn by said sewing mechanism
from the respective continuous sequin strips,

wherein said feeding mechanism feeds the plurality of continuous sequin strips, placed in the overlapped state on an upper surface of a supporting plate, a predetermined pitch at a time in interlocked relation to predetermined sewing operation and through forward and rearward movement of a feed lever, said feeding mechanism feeding the continuous sequin strips by ~~causing moving~~ the feed lever ~~to move~~ forward with a distal-end hook portion of the feed lever engaging holes of sequins.

6. (*Original*) A sequin sewing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the holes of the sequins are holes through which a thread is to be passed, and positions of the holes of the sequins in the overlapped state correspond to each other.

7. (*Original*) A sequin sewing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of continuous sequin strips supplied in the overlapped state by said supplying section comprise different kinds of sequins.

8. (*Original*) A sequin sewing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of continuous sequin strips supplied in the overlapped state by said supplying section comprise the same kind of sequins.

9. (*Original*) A sequin sewing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said feeding mechanism feeds the continuous sequin strips the predetermined pitch in synchronization with timing of sewing of one sequin.

10. (*Original*) A sequin sewing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said cutting mechanism cuts leading sequins at a time from the plurality of continuous sequin strips fed by said feeding mechanism in interlocked relation to sewing operation of said sewing mechanism.

11. (*Original*) A sequin sewing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the sequin sewing apparatus comprises an embroidering machine, said sewing mechanism is a sewing mechanism of said embroidering machine, and the sequin sewing apparatus is constructed by attaching a sequin sewing unit comprising said supplying section, said feeding mechanism, and said cutting mechanism to said embroidering machine.